

OPWDD Waiver

(Programs are County based eligibility – NOT State)

(607) 770-0211

Eligibility Requirements:

- Any Age
- Development Disability Diagnosis prior to age 22
- Diagnoses include: Mental Retardation, Seizure Disorder, ADHD, Neurological Impairment, Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cerebral Palsy
- Substantial Handicap upon review of assessments by OPWDD psychologists (for provisional eligibility meaning before the age of 8 years; Updated assessments completed at age 8 to determine either age out or permanent eligibility)
- Must have adaptive deficits as well as a qualifying diagnosis/diagnoses.

The Referral Process:

- **Contact Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC) Supervisor at any one of these agencies:** Epilepsy Foundation, Catholic Charities, HCA, STIC, ACHIEVE, Sheltered Workshop, Broome DDSO, Community Options.
- **Obtain the Needed Assessments:**
 - Most recent psychological (w/Full Scale IQ); abbreviated testing is not accepted.
 - Medical documentation regarding diagnosis in question (need to be specific)
 - Specialists, such as PT, OT if involved
 - Adaptive functioning testing (any discrepancies on assessments may require additional testing)
- Info taken and sent to OPWDD DDSO where the psychologist will process for eligibility determination.
- Must be Medicaid eligible-this will be assessed on an individual basis.
- If denied eligibility there is a second step and sometimes a third step. This requires more testing.

What Happens If You Are Eligible?

- If eligible, a letter is sent to the family and to the referring agency
- The family can choose their OPWDD Provider
- The Eligible Client must have Medicaid or apply for Medicaid as soon as eligibility is determined in order to get services and to be eligible for the Waiver
- Child considered a “Family of One”

MSC Services: May choose only to have MSC. Do not have to enroll in Waiver if in MSC services; must have Medicaid to participate in either program.

MSC Functions: Will visit your family member a minimum of 3 times per year, face to face, and will provide assessment, linkage and monitoring of services. Possible funding source for emergencies.

DSS Waiver

Bridges to Health Program (B2H)

(607) 778-2626

Eligibility Requirements:

- In foster care under the custody of Broome County DSS
- Living in a foster environment of 12 beds or less. (Foster home, small group home, etc.)
- Have a qualifying diagnosis (Serious Emotional Diagnosis, Developmentally Delayed or Medically Fragile)
- Be able to benefit from services offered

The Referral Process:

- Once a child is believed to qualify, DSS sends the referral paperwork with supporting medical documentation to the chosen Health Care Integration Agency (HCIA).
 - Assessments Needed:
 - Most recent psychological evaluation (must be within the last 6 months)
 - Supporting medical documentation regarding diagnosis and the child’s most current physical
 - Social History
- The HCIA has 60 days to review, determine eligibility, assess the child’s needs and make an Individual Health Plan (IHP).
- Upon IHP completion, HCIA sends to DSS for approval. DSS has 30 days to approve/deny. If approved, the B2H services can start immediately. Plans are reviewed every 6 months; additional meetings are held as child’s needs change

What Happens If You Are Eligible?

- An HCIA will provide the services after a plan is approved and/or contract out to a Waiver Service Provider (WSP). (Children’s Home and STIC are approved WSPs)
- There are currently three HCIA agencies in our region.
 - Elmcrest Children’s Center, Syracuse, NY
 - Hillside Children’s Center, Syracuse, NY
 - House of Good Shepherd, Utica, NY
- The Youth and Family will be connected with the following Services:
 - Skill Building,
 - Day Habilitation Services,
 - Planned Respite Services,
 - Special Needs Community Advocacy and Support Family/Caregiver Support Services
 - Crisis Avoidance and Management and Training, Immediate Crisis Response Services, Crisis Respite,
 - Intensive In-Home Supports and Services,
 - Pre-vocational Services and Supported Employment Services,
 - Adaptive and Assistive Equipment and Accessibility Modifications.

Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver

Children’s Flex Team

(607) 584-7800

Eligibility Requirements:

- Between the ages of 5 and 17 yrs. (prior to 18th birthday)
- Serious emotional disturbance
- Complex mental health issues
- Service and support needs cannot be met by just one agency/system
- At imminent risk of admission to a psychiatric institution or have a need for continued psychiatric hospitalization
- Can be reasonably expected to be served under the HCBS Waiver at a cost which does not exceed that of psychiatric institutional care
- Child must be Medicaid eligible under Waiver
- Have a viable and consistent living environment
- Parents must demonstrate viability

The Referral Process:

- All referrals through Catholic Charities – Broome County SPOA
- Parents/Guardians, Service Providers, Schools, Probation, DSS need to complete a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Comprehensive Multisystem Assessment
- Family meets with a SPOA Advocate
- Family goes through SPOA Process for approval
- Upon approval for Children’s Flex Team the family will be notified

What Happens If You Are Eligible?

- The family will be contacted by the Children’s Flex Team to initiate intake and begin services
- The Waiver provides six services:
 - Individualized Care Coordinator (ICC)
 - Intensive In-Home (IIH)
 - Crisis Response Service (CRS)
 - Skill Building Service (SBS)
 - Respite Care (RC)
 - Family Support Services (FSS)
- All youth receive Individualized Care Coordination (ICC)
- The ICC helps youth and families select from remaining five Waiver services that best address their needs and strengths.
- Services are introduced at the family’s pace and receptiveness and work around family’s availability
- It is not uncommon for 3 different workers to be assigned to one family (ICC/IIH/CRS, FSS, SBS/RC)

This is meant as a guide to help families decide where to seek appropriate services for their high needs children. Your child may fit into the criteria for more than one program, but one may be better than another for his or her needs.

Contact the agencies for help in deciding which direction to proceed and for help with the referral process.

Please speak with program representatives to see if your child is eligible.

An updated chart of services can be found on the Children and Youth Services Council Website:

www.cyscbroome.org



A Guide to Understanding Waiver Programs Offered Through

Office of People With Developmental Disabilities

Broome County-Department of Social Services

&

Catholic Charities



Medicaid Services Care Coordinator

Bridges to Health

&

Children's Flex Team

Contact Information:

OPWDD: (607) 770-0211

BC-DSS: (607) 778-2626

**Catholic Charities
Children's Flex Team:
(607) 584-7800**

**Produced by the
Children and Youth Services Council
Coordinating Committee**

The mission of the Council is to provide a forum for interagency collaboration, communication and connection among professionals serving the youth and families of Broome County.